

Town of Mansfield
Energy Education Team
Minutes of Meeting
October 11, 2011

Present: Coleen Spurlock (chair), Pene Williams, Doug Goodstein, Don Hoyle, Madeline Priest (Neighbor to Neighbor), Kevin Donahue (Neighbor to Neighbor), Ginny Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by chair Coleen Spurlock.

The minutes of the September 13, 2011 were reviewed and accepted as amended.

Coleen and Pene reported that they attended, along with six other residents, the Home Energy Basics Deeper Energy Savings presentation where a representative from New England Conservation Services (NECS) was on hand to address residents' questions. Attendees were promised a follow-up call by NECS, which neither Coleen nor Pene have received. Madeline will check into this.

The Solar Energy for the Home class is in progress with Martin Fox, retired electrical engineering professor, as the instructor. 16 people are attending the class to learn how to put together an off-grid photovoltaic system.

The Moving Planet table at the Festival on the Green was busy with the activity of hand cranking ice cream and powering a light bulb with a bicycle. An estimate of 200 people stopped by the table to make and eat ice cream, and test out Sally's bike-powered bulb invention. About 20 people were in the Festival parade riding their bikes and holding a banner that stated, "Moving Beyond Fossil Fuels."

Madeline introduced Kevin Donahue, who will be working with the Town of Mansfield for the remainder of the Neighbor to Neighbor energy challenge. Madeline reported that Mansfield has had one energy upgrade recently. Ginny stated that a meeting with community groups has been rescheduled for November 2, 2011 at 7:00. Invitations were sent out on October 6 to 22 different organizations. It was suggested that the Home Energy Basics and Deeper Savings programs be offered this winter. Ginny will check with the Community Center to see if the winter brochure deadline has passed. Madeline and Kevin presented the Neighbor to Neighbor Challenge to the Mansfield Lion's Club prompting 7 of the 14 attendees to sign up for an energy audit. The Lion's Club has agreed to partner with Neighbor to Neighbor.

If any other members would like to join her, Pene stated that she will be attending a regional energy task force meeting on November 19, 2011, hosted by Wetherfield's task force.

Coleen reported that an initiating group of about 20 people have started discussing the Transition Towns Handbook. On October 7, 2011 UConn hosted an introductory

presentation on transition towns of which 20 people attended. On October 9, at the Willimantic Downtown Country Fair, there was a transition towns table. 36 people expressed interest in a transition towns training. A presentation on transition towns will be made at the Willimantic No Freeze Shelter and at Quinnebaug Community College.

Doug reported that UConn is holding another Energy Mania contest, which in the past has reduced campus energy consumption by 10%.

Doug asked if the Town would consider offering low interest loans for energy efficiency projects. He will research what other towns are doing and report his findings at a future meeting. Madeline reported that the newly restructured Clean Energy Fund will be offering low-interest loans for energy retrofits in the near future.

Future agenda items include recruiting new members, publicity of what the Town already does, sending letters to the editors, canvassing neighborhoods, Town-sponsored energy efficiency loans and a report from UConn.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2011. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton